



DLAB

Distance Learning Authorization Board

**September 12, 2025
Virtual DLAB Meeting**

Minutes

Members present

Dr. Eric Fulcomer, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)
Secretary Dan Hereth, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)
Layla Merrifield, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)
Jay Rothman, Universities of Wisconsin (UW)

Members absent

Dr. Russell Swagger, Wisconsin Tribal Colleges

Others present

Tammie DeVooght-Blaney, HEAB
Joan Gage, DSPS
Rebecca Larson, WAICU
Amy Missinne, UW
Paige Smith, UW
Megan Stritchko, WTCS

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Open Meeting Statement – Jay Rothman, DLAB Chair

Jay Rothman, DLAB Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Amy Missinne called roll and a quorum was present. She read the following Open Meeting Statement: “The September 12, 2025, meeting of the Wisconsin Distance Learning Authorization Board and all other meetings of this board are open to the public in compliance with State Statute. Notice of the meeting has been sent to the press in an attempt to make the general public of Wisconsin aware of the time, place, and agenda of the meeting.”

Action: Approval of May 23, 2025, DLAB Meeting Minutes – Jay Rothman

The minutes of the May 23, 2025, meeting were approved unanimously (Fulcomer / Merrifield motion). The minutes will be posted to the DLAB website.

Report of the Chair – Jay Rothman

Jay Rothman welcomed the board and reviewed the agenda.

Report: Review and Approval of Institutional Applications and Renewals

Universities of Wisconsin – Paige Smith

Paige Smith reported having approved eight renewal applications for UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, and UW-

Stout. They were approved with no issues. The remaining five will be reviewed later this fall and will be reported to this board at the December meeting.

Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities – Rebecca Larson

Rebecca Larson reported having approved 12 renewal applications for Herzing University, Concordia University Wisconsin, Bellin College, Maranatha Baptist University, Viterbo University, Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Alverno College, Carroll University, Medical College of Wisconsin, and Marian University. Updates on additional renewal applications will be reported at the December meeting.

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services – Joan Gage

Joan Gage reported there were no new applications or approvals for this period.

Wisconsin Technical College System – Megan Stritchko

Megan Stritchko reported having approved seven technical college renewal applications for Chippewa Valley Technical College, Madison Area Technical College, Nicolet Area Technical College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Northcentral Technical College, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, and Western Technical College, as well as one tribal college for Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University. WTCS applications come in throughout the year.

Report: Staff Updates

NC-SARA Updates – Paige Smith

Paige Smith provided an update on the NC-SARA 2025 Policy Modification Process which has resulted in a total of nine proposed policies being approved by the four Regional Steering Compacts. These policy proposals will be submitted to the NC-SARA Board at its October 23, 2025, meeting for approval.

Paige also provided an update regarding her attendance at the 2025 NC-SARA State Portal Entity (SPE) Annual Conference. During the conference, there were numerous topics discussed, but a few of note related to institutional closures, student complaint processes, federal financial composite score calculations, and record retention policies. There was also a session on federal regulatory updates which focused on the recent passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill and specific provisions that impact higher education colleges, such as the “Do No Harm” accountability provision. The part of the Bill bases federal student aid on student outcomes by tying an institution’s eligibility to whether it’s degree-granting programs lead to a meaningful economic return for student completers. This provision is part of a larger movement toward outcomes-based funding as noted in the Unified Spring 2025 Agenda. As to NC-SARA’s current role in higher education, it has been responsive to external concerns related to student consumer protection issues over the past two years which has helped in regard to its relationship with federal and state administrations and regulators.

NC-SARA Grant Update – Megan Stritchko

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Megan Stritchko provided an update on the Wisconsin fiscal year 2025 NC-SARA State and Territory Grant. Wisconsin received a grant in the amount of \$7,500 and was granted approval to retain the remaining grant funds through December 31, 2025.

Wisconsin SPE Summit – Rebecca Larson

Rebecca Larson provided an update on the planning of a Wisconsin SPE Meeting Summit to be held on December 2, 2025. The SPE's will receive various updates and have a chance to connect with their SPE colleagues. This will be a virtual meeting offering sessions on SARA 101, licensure disclosure updates from The Bookmark, regulatory updates, NC-SARA staff updates, and MSARA staff updates, policy changes, etc. Plans will be finalized and shared with DLAB and then sent out to our SPE contacts. Members of the DLAB are welcome to attend as well. Using the remaining grant dollars, we will provide honoraria to the speakers.

Complaints Report – Joan Gage

Joan Gage reported no complaints for this quarter.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded without any additional discussion, and a motion to adjourn was proposed (Hereth / Merrifield). The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting officially adjourned at 11:30 a.m.